

Amendments to the claims

Listing of claims

1. (Previously amended) A flue cleaner comprising an enclosed container having an opening providing restricted communication between the interior and exterior of the enclosed container, the enclosed container being formed of a non-combustible heat resistant material, the interior of the enclosed container containing a soot removal agent.

2. (Previously amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container is formed of metal.

3. (Previously amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container is formed of steel.

4. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the opening is closed by a closure formed of a material which will be consumed slowly upon the flue cleaner being placed in a fire.

5. (Previously amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is encased within the enclosed container within a settable composition which will harden once being introduced into the enclosed container and which will be consumed slowly upon the flue cleaner being placed in a fire.

6. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 5 wherein the composition comprises a mixture of sawdust and a binding agent.
7. (Previously amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 6 wherein the composition controls and restricts the combustion of the sawdust when the flue cleaner is placed in a fire.
8. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is selected from zinc, tin, aluminum or any combination thereof.
9. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is coated on a substrate.
10. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 9 wherein the substrate comprises a metal foil and/or sheeting.
11. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent comprises a quantity of particles and/or granules of the soot removal agent.
12. (Previously amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the soot removal agent is formed as a single body.

13. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 12 wherein the soot removal agent is formed as an ingot.

14. (Previously amended) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein the enclosed container comprises a length of tube, at least one end of the tube being open.

15. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 14 said at least one end being partially closed.

16. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 15 said at least one end being partially closed by an inwardly directed flange to define the opening.

17. (Original) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 14 wherein the tube has a substantially elliptical cross-section and each end is provided with a dumbbell or "figure-8" profile.

18. (Previously presented) A flue cleaner as claimed at claim 1 wherein said soot removing agent generates soot removing vapors when subjected to heat to clear soot and residue; and

wherein said opening is sized and shaped to restrict the release of said vapors to render the flue cleaner effective for an extended period of time.

19. (Previously presented) A flue cleaner comprising a containment vessel having an opening providing restricted communication between the interior and exterior of the vessel, the vessel being formed of a non-combustible heat resistant material, the interior of the enclosed container containing a soot removal agent;

wherein the vessel comprises a length of tube, at least one end of the tube being partially closed by an inwardly directed flange to define the opening.

20. (Currently Amended) A flue cleaner comprising:

an enclosed container forming a containment vessel made of a non-combustible heat resistant material (~~page 3, 3rd par.~~); and

a soot removing agent generating soot removing vapors when subjected to heat to clear soot and residue (~~page 3, fourth par.~~);

wherein said containment vessel has opening means sized and shaped to release said vapors in a restricted manner to render the flue cleaner effective for an extended period of time (~~page 5, 2nd par.~~).